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1979/12/00



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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

CHINA
GENG Biao
December 1979

(U) NAME: Geng Biao (Keng Piao) (5105/7374)
(pronounced gung).

(C) POSITION: Secretary General, Military Commission, Chinese Communist Party, since February 1979; Vice Premier, State Council, since March 1978; Member, Politburo, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, since 1977; Member, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, since 1971.



(C) SIGNIFICANCE: The Military Commission is charged with formulating and implementing China's national defense policies. As Secretary General, Geng directs the Commission's day-to-day operations. For 20 years following the establishment of the People's Republic of China, Geng was in the diplomatic service, either as an ambassador or in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to his current assignment, he was Director of the International Liaison Department, responsible for receiving foreign Communist delegations and explaining the position of the Party's leadership on world issues. His appointment as a vice premier in March 1978 probably signified his role as coordinator of government organs responsible for foreign policy.

(U) 1978

(C) POLITICS: Geng's appointment as Secretary General of the Military Commission constitutes further evidence that he is one of Party Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping's inner circle of trusted associates. His appointment to the Politburo in 1977 was initial evidence of his high influence in Chinese Communist Party affairs.

(C) PERSONAL DATA: Geng was born in 1909, in Hunan Province. He is married to Zhao Lanxiang. His disposition varies with the situation; he can be friendly and expansive, or reserved and inflexible. Prior to the abolition of ranks in the People's Liberation Army, Geng was a General.

(U) CAREER:

1925-1930 - Joined the Chinese Communist Party. Joined the Chinese Worker's and Peasants' Red Army, 1930.

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ON 15 Feb 85

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- 1934-1937 - Made Long March as Commander, 4th Regiment, 2d Division (Commander: Liu Yalou), 1934-35. Attended a Red Army Academy, 1935. After graduating, remained as an instructor, 1936-37. Chief of Staff, 384th Brigade, 129th Division, 8th Route Army, 1937.
- 1944-1949 - Director, Liaison Bureau Shanxi-Zhaha-Hebei Border Region Government, 1944. Deputy Chief of Staff Shanxi-Zhaha-Hebei Military Region, 1944-46. Deputy Commander, 19th Army Group, 1948.
- 1950-1959 - Ambassador to Sweden, 1950-1956. Concurrently Minister to Denmark and Finland, 1950-1955. Ambassador to Pakistan, 1956-1959.
- 1960-1967 - Appointed Vice Minister to the Foreign Ministry, 1960-1963. Accompanied Chen Yi to Afghanistan, 1960 and to Indonesia, 1961. Ambassador to Burma, 1963-1967.
- 1969-1978 - Appointed Ambassador to Albania, 1967-1971. Director, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's International Liaison Department, 1971-1978. Member, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, 1971. Member, Politburo, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, 1977. Vice Premier, State Council, 1978.
- 1979 -Present- Appointed Secretary General, Military Commission, February 1979.

PREPARED BY: [REDACTED] DIA/DB-2B4